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### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A system for extracting design and layout information from a plurality of image-mosaics representative of a deconstructed integrated circuit, the system comprising ~~means for~~ facilities enabling parallel design analysis of the image-mosaics by a plurality of engineer analysts concurrently reverse engineering an integrated circuit (IC), the facilities including: annotation ownership tracking; unique annotation label generation; annotation locking; and, annotation merging.

37. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the system permits the plurality of image-mosaics ~~are to be~~ annotated concurrently using a plurality of design analysis workstations.

38. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 37, wherein each annotation object created using a design analysis workstation participating in parallel design analysis ~~includes~~ is provided an ownership attribute by the ownership tracking facility, the ownership attribute specifying an engineer analyst associated with the design analysis workstation at a time when the annotation object was created.

39. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 38, wherein the unique annotation label generation facility generates a unique identification string for each annotation objects ~~objects include an identification string, and the system further comprises means for generating unique identification strings created using the design analysis workstation.~~

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40. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 38, wherein the annotation merging facility merges annotation objects having different ownership attributes can be merged for display on one design analysis workstation.

41-78. (Cancelled)

79. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 39 ~~further comprising means for~~ 36 wherein the annotation locking, which facility permits a creator of an annotation object to lock the annotation object to prevent editing of the annotation object by others while the annotation object is locked, to prevent so that accidental modification of the annotation object is prevented.

80. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 36 wherein the facilities prevent propagation of signals are prevented by locked annotation objects created by a different engineer analysts analyst, and the facilities flag signal conflicts are flagged but even though the signals are not propagated.

81. (Currently Amended) A method of extracting design and layout information from a plurality of image-mosaics representative of a deconstructed integrated circuit, the method comprising enabling parallel design analysis of the image-mosaics by a plurality of engineer analysts concurrently reverse engineering an integrated circuit (IC) by providing using multi-user extensions to provide facilities to synchronize work of multiple engineer-analysts working on an IC reverse-engineering project, the facilities enabling parallel design analysis of the image-mosaics by a plurality of engineer analysts concurrently reverse engineering an integrated circuit (IC), including: annotation ownership tracking; unique annotation label generation; annotation locking; and, annotation merging.

82. (Cancelled).

83. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 81, ~~further wherein annotation ownership tracking comprises comprising providing ownership~~

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attributes for specifying an engineer analyst associated with a design analysis workstation at a time when the annotation object is created.

84. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 83, ~~further comprising wherein unique annotation label generation comprises generating a unique identification strings string for the each annotation objects object.~~

85. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 83, ~~further wherein annotation merging comprises comprising merging~~ annotation objects having different ownership attributes for display on one design analysis workstation.

86. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 83 ~~further comprising wherein annotation locking comprises~~ preventing editing of annotation objects by permitting a creator of an annotation object to lock the annotation object to prevent editing of the annotation object by others while the annotation object is locked.

87. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 86 further comprising ~~providing facilities preventing that prevent~~ propagation of signals by locked annotation objects created by a different engineer analysts, while flagging all signal conflicts ~~even though the signals are not propagated.~~